

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated September 26, 2003, claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for reconsideration.

The disclosure stands objected to for a typographical error in claims 2-6. Applicants respectfully believe that the typographical error has been corrected.

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Bourne* (6,176,336). Applicants respectfully traverse.

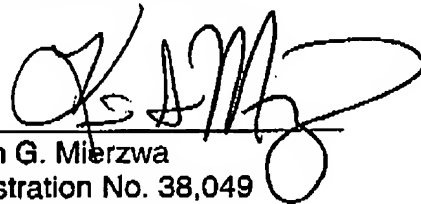
For a proper §102 rejection, each and every element of the claims must be present in the application. Claim 13 is an independent claim that includes the steps of determining a lateral force in response to measured vehicle conditions and controlling the steering actuator in response to the lateral force to maximize the lateral force. Applicants respectfully submit that the *Bourne* reference does not teach or suggest determining a lateral force in response to measured vehicle conditions. Although the *Bourne* reference describes lateral forces, no teaching or suggestion is provided for determining a lateral force. Further, no teaching or suggestion is provided for controlling the steering actuator. The Examiner cites Col. 4, first paragraph. This column refers to the wheel slip which is a function of the forward velocity and the lateral velocity of the vehicle. Applicants respectfully believe that the wheel slip does not "determine a lateral force in response to the measured vehicle conditions." The applicants refer the Examiner to Fig. 4 of the present application which shows the lateral forces versus the tire slip angle. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that because each and every element of the claims are not found in the reference, claim 13 should be allowable. Likewise, claim 14 is dependent on claim 13 and should also be allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 13.

Applicants acknowledge the allowability of claims 1 and 7-12, 2-6 if rewritten to overcome the objections, and claim 15 if rewritten in independent form.

In light of the above remarks, applicants submit that all objections and rejections are now overcome and the application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to deposit account 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,



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